

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

Revised 07/09/20

[Charter Amendment - Department of Sanitation and Streets, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Public Works Commission]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to create the Department of Sanitation and Streets to succeed to specific duties currently performed by the Department of Public Works; to create a Sanitation and Streets Commission to oversee the Department of Sanitation and Streets; to create a Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works; and to require an annual performance audit and cost and waste analysis for both departments; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Under the Charter, the Department of Public Works' responsibilities are determined by the City Administrator and include the responsibility for maintaining and cleaning the public right of way.

Charter section 4.102 provides that a commission of the executive branch has the responsibility to formulate, evaluate and approve goals, set policies, develop Annual Statements of Purpose for the departments under its jurisdiction, and approve departmental budgets.

Charter section F1.102 provides that the City Auditor shall develop quantifiable, measurable, objective standards for street, sidewalk, and park maintenance in consultation with the Department of Public Works.

Amendments to Current Law

This Charter amendment would remove the Department of Public Works from the purview of the City Administrator. The amendment would create a new Public Works Commission which would have oversight over the Department of Public Works. At the same time, the responsibilities for cleaning and maintaining the public right of way, and certain other responsibilities such as the maintenance of street trees in the public right of way would be transferred to a newly created Department of Sanitation and Streets. The new Department would also be responsible for maintaining City buildings. The amendment would also create a Sanitation and Streets Commission which would have oversight responsibilities over the new Department of Sanitation and Streets. The Charter amendment would also require the Controller's office to complete an annual performance audit and cost and waste analysis for both departments.